



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

SFUND RECORDS CTR
2110541

March 30, 2006

Robin Lampkin-Isabel, Senior Group Counsel
Ashland Inc.
5200 Blazer Memorial Parkway, DA-5
Dublin, OH 43017

Re: Omega Chemical Superfund Site
Confirmation of Receipt of De Minimis Settlement Payment;
Ashland, Inc.

Dear Robin Lampkin-Isabel:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX ("EPA") would like to take this opportunity to thank Ashland, Inc. for participating in the De Minimis Settlement for the Omega Chemical Superfund Site ("Omega Site").

EPA has received the payment of Ashland, Inc. as required in the De Minimis Settlement, also known as Administrative Order on Consent No. 2004-13. All benefits of the settlement, including contribution protection and covenants not to sue from the federal government, are in full effect. This letter does not address your payment to the State of California ("State") or the State covenant not to sue your company or organization in regard to the Omega Site.

We greatly appreciate this contribution toward the cost of protecting human health and the environment from the threats posed by the Omega Chemical Superfund Site. If you have any further questions or concerns about this settlement, please contact Thanne Cox at (415) 972-3908 or Linda Ketellapper at (415) 972-3104.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frederick Schauffler".

Frederick Schauffler, Chief
Site Cleanup Section 4
Superfund Division

cc: Thanne Cox, US EPA
Linda Ketellapper, US EPA



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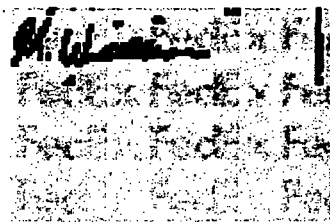
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